due to high standard of medical education available at AIIMS and other premier Medical Institutions in India which is found acceptable in developed countries.

(f) A Committee is being constituted to look into issues regarding retention of health manpower in Government sector. There is presently no proposal to consider enactment of law requiring trained medical professionals to leave the country only after serving for a requisite number of years in the country including rural areas. However, in pursuance of the resolution of the sixth conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, in order to meet the shortage of doctors in rural areas, the State/UT Governments have been advised, *inter-alia*, to reserve 25% of postgraduate seats in Medical colleges, for in-service candidates, who have worked in rural areas for at least three years with a bond that they will serve the Government for at least five years. Some states have taken necessary steps in their regard.

(g) Does not arise.

Plantation of medicinal plants in Madhya Pradesh

†2965. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals sent by various States, especially by Madhya Pradesh to his Ministry regarding plantation of medicinal plants; and

(b) the status of action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A total 6955 proposals from various States/UTs including 1311 from Madhya Pradesh State were received by National Medicinal Plants Board during the year 2005-06 for providing assistance under Promotional and Contractual Farming Schemes of the Board. A total of 1464 projects involving financial outlay of Rs. 5756.38 lacs were sanctioned for various States/UTs during the year 2005-06 under these schemes. These include 209 projects involving financial outlay of Rs. 541.30 lacs for the State of Madhya Pradesh.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.